

STATEMENTS  
RESPECTING  
HOSPITALS IN CHINA,

PRECEDED BY  
A LETTER

TO  
JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M.D., V.P.R.S.E.,

BY  
REV. PETER PARKER, M.D.,

MEDICAL MISSIONARY OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IN CHINA.

GLASGOW:  
JAMES MACLEHOSE, 83 BUCHANAN-STREET.

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Printed by BELL & BAIN, 15 St. Enoch Square.

TO

## JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M.D.,

OXON. & EDIN., V.P.R.S.E., &c. &c. &c.

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WASHINGTON, (D.C.) U. S. A. *Sept. 15th, 1841.*

SIR,—Your talents and learning, and devotedness to the best interests of man, as an intellectual and moral being, had long claimed my highest esteem; and when to this sentiment was added the pleasure of a personal acquaintance during my late visit to Edinburgh, and you had shown so lively an interest in behalf of the Medical Missionary Society in China, I could not but wish to avail myself of the sanctions of a name so honourably known, both in England and America, to address the public of these countries on the subject of that Society, more explicitly than was done in the accompanying “Statements,”—you kindly permitted me to do so.

I proceed then to state that, on the 5th July, 1840, agreeably to the wishes of the Committee of the “Medical Missionary Society,” I left China to spread before the benevolent and Christian public of England and America the claims of that Society. By the press, by public addresses, and by conversations, endeavours have been made to exhibit the principles and objects of the Society; and a very general interest has been manifested among different denominations of Christians on both sides of the Atlantic. The sentiments of the Medical Profession, in the principal cities of America, will appear from the resolutions contained in the “Statements.” The gentlemen whose names are appended to those documents belong to five or six different religious denominations; but they find in the plan of the Medical Missionary Society a common object of benevolent enterprize, in which all who regard the welfare of their species can harmoniously co-operate.

In London I had the high satisfaction of making the acquaintance of numerous friends and distinguished personages. Sir Henry Hallford, Bart., to whom, and to Dr. H. Holland, I had letters of introduction from the Hon. Daniel Webster,—self-moved, came forward three years since as an advocate of the principle adopted by the Medical Missionary Society in China. Sir Henry regarded it as providential that, after such an interval, the subject he had advocated should be recalled by one who had come from China for that purpose:—said he, “I shall be most happy to do any thing in my power to promote so good an object; call at any time, and with all freedom.” Shortly after a note was received from Sir Henry, requesting an early call as he had gratifying communications to make. The next day I found Sir Henry much gratified by the ready sympathy which gentlemen had expressed in this cause so near to his own heart. He observed, “Since we parted I



have seen the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of London, and the Princess Sophia; all speak in terms of highest commendation that the plan is most rational and scriptural, and the mode adopted by the *Saviour*, &c.; and several express their readiness to lay down their guineas to found scholarships for the education of Medical Missionaries to China." I had also the honour of an introduction to the Right Hon. Lord Bexley, so well known for his benevolence; and through the politeness of Dr. H. Holland, and the Hon. A. Stevenson, to his Royal Highness Duke of Sussex, Marquis of Lansdown, Sir G. T. Staunton, Bart., and the Lord Bishop of London. An opportunity was also afforded of becoming acquainted with the principal physicians and surgeons of the metropolis,—Mr. Vincent, late President of R.C.S., Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sir James Clark, Dr. Chambers, Dr. Hodgkin, Dr. Stroud, Dr. J. Forbes, Mr. Benjamin Traverses, Mr. Guthrie, President R.C.S., Mr. Lawrence, Mr. C. Aston Key, Mr. Liston, and many others; and among them all not a dissenting opinion was expressed upon the subject. Dr. Forbes, editor of *Foreign and British Review*, in the number for July, thus notices the subject:—"In an early number of this Journal (vol. iv., p. 568,) we noticed the establishment of Medical Missions in China; and we are much gratified to learn that they have been most successful in their double capacity of providing for the temporal and spiritual wants of the singular people on the borders of whose country they are planted. One of the most zealous and enlightened of these excellent Missionaries, the Rev. Peter Parker, M.D., of the United States, is now in England for the purpose of raising a permanent fund for the support of the "Medical Missionary Society in China," for the maintenance of the hospitals already established, and for the founding of others at every accessible and eligible part of China."

"We earnestly commend the sacred cause in which Dr. Parker and his brethren are engaged, to the attention of all whose positions and means enable them to promote it. Independently of the richer fruits of their heroic labours, we look forward with confidence to great benefits which medicine may expect from them, in the observations of new forms of disease, and in the discovery of new therapeutic means in the natural productions of this vast and unknown country, and amid the mountains of pharmaceutic rubbish which have been accumulating in their traditionary and written records, from periods anterior to all accidental history. We shall even hope for no inconsiderable additions to our stock of oriental medicine, from the work which Dr. Parker is now preparing for the press, founded on his own observations in China."

The Bishop of London, whose civilities to a stranger are duly appreciated, remarked that "the plan is most scriptural, and has the sanction of the Saviour himself, and the publishers of the gospel in the early ages of Christianity; and so far have we been convinced of the importance of the subject, that these scholarships have been founded in King's College for the education of Medical Missionaries."

The Royal College of Surgeons has acceded to a proposition which originated with one of the members of that body, to educate, *medically*, these Chinese youth that shall be sent to England for that purpose. The London Missionary Society had already affixed the seal of its approbation, by sending to China, as Medical Missionaries, William Lockhart, Esq. of Liverpool, and student of Guy's Hospital, and Benjamin Hobson, of Wellford, a graduate of London University College. I had also the pleasure of meeting the *Directors* of the London Mis-

sionary Society, and of commending the object afresh to their attention, and of receiving their full assurance of interest in the cause. The Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, chaplain to Her Majesty, remarked, in reference to the cause, "*my heart is with you.*" The Rev. James Sherman of Surrey Chapel, and successor of Rowland Hill, spoke of it as a Society involving interests of great moment to the Missionary enterprise, and one productive of vast good to the Chinese. The Rev. Drs. Reed, Matheson, Morison, Bennett, Burder, and Vaughan, and J. P. Smith, and many others in London, and Rev. Dr. Raffles, Rev. J. Kelly, Rev. H. M'Neill, and Rev. Dr. Ralph of Liverpool, have evinced their deep regard for the Society. In Paris, Rev. Mark Wilks, Generals Cass and Lasty, M. Louis, Countess Pellet, and many French of distinction, express their high sense of its importance. The Rev. John Angel James, of Birmingham, in allusion to the subject, speaks of "the Saviour who, in his august, holy, and benevolent characters, combined the physician of both soul and body," and expressed his willingness to aid by his contribution. The Rev. Ralph Wardlaw, D.D., of Glasgow, thus writes, "Allow me, my dear sir, to assure you anew of the deep interest I feel in the object of your visit to this country. I have not, for a long time, met with a plan that has commended itself more strongly to the approbation of my judgment, and to the best desires of my heart. The combination of the corporeal and mental, the temporal and spiritual benefit of those who are its objects—and how vast the multitude of these!—gives it a very powerful claim on Christian philanthropy. I wish you from my heart all success, and shall do what is in my power to promote the knowledge and acceptance of the measure." The great and good Chalmers of Edinburgh, in a recent letter to a friend in New York, has expressed similar sentiments. In Germany the cause has also met with a cordial response. What, then, now remains? To concentrate, and carry into *effect* the interest so generally, and in so many countries manifested. When I contemplate the subject, and its magnitude expands into all its importance and moral grandeur, the exclamation is irrepressible,—Oh! that talent might be enlisted adequate to guide and foster the interest, and conduct the mighty enterprise to a successful consummation! The complaint has sometimes been made, that antiquity has exhausted the *material* of poetry and oratory, and has therefore precluded modern poets and orators from the possibility of being *original*; but of the philanthropist, in no one age, can it be said that his predecessors have left him nothing to accomplish. Howard, Clarkson, and Wilberforce, gathered rich harvests of good—they won laurels that will never fade; yet what has been effected by the philanthropist of any one period does but open a wider field for the exercise of all the powers of those who may succeed him. To liberate man from physical, mental, and moral vassalage, and to disseminate the blessings of science and Christianity all over the globe, are sufficient for the mightiest intellects, and most benevolent hearts. Do we indeed say too much when we express the opinion, that to remove the *physical* and *moral* evils of even *three-fourths* of the human race, is an enterprise worthy all Christendom? What, then, in respect to China is to be done? As far as it concerns the aim of the Medical Missionary Society, an answer in general terms may be found in the "Statements" regarding Hospitals in China; but numerous inquiries and difficulties suggested by friends have shown, that more information and explanation are needed. The original plan was to raise a *permanent fund*, the annual proceeds of which should be



adequate to support the existing Hospitals, and to multiply similar ones. But in England it was suggested, that it will be better for the present to attempt to procure only the annual sum requisite. In Boston 4000 dollars have been subscribed for the permanent fund of £20,000. It is optional with individuals to subscribe as they please,—those who contribute liberally for a permanent fund, will not be solicited from year to year. We have stated the object to be *the maintenance of the Hospitals already established, and for the founding of others at every accessible and eligible part of China; it being also a prominent object to train up Chinese youth of talent, to extend the blessings of the healing art through the empire,—in all our efforts never losing sight of the permanent object—the introduction of the Gospel.* This is sufficiently definite to those who have been in China; they know what Hospitals are established, and what the accessible places alluded to. For others, it is not superfluous to explain, that the Medical Missionary Society has an Hospital at Canton, in buildings rented of the Chinese: that in the relations of foreigners with the Chinese hitherto, it would have been inexpedient to invest property in buildings at Canton. At Macao the case is different, there being more security of property under the Portuguese government. The Society has purchased premises for 5000 dollars, which originally cost 20,000 dollars, being sold below its real value for this benevolent purpose. These buildings are of a permanent structure, very commodious, and well adapted to the uses of an Hospital, or for a Medical College, should it ever become expedient to appropriate them in this manner. It is in a very healthy and pleasant situation, and has a garden and spacious grounds, and will accommodate 200 patients. The Chinese population of Macao numbers about 30,000, Pih Shan, at the distance of a few miles, 5000, and Hëangshan, only thirty miles distance, with land and water communication, contains about 40,000, and a numerous fleet of Chinese junks from other provinces, particularly Fich-Kien, and hundreds of fishing craft anchor in the inner harbour. The number of those who will resort to this Hospital, as patients, is of course great. Canton, the city and suburbs, embraces from a million to a million and a half of inhabitants. Besides, it is one of the principal marts of the empire, receives the annual visits of great numbers of merchants and scholars from other districts of the province, (8000 students usually attending the annual examination,) and from other provinces. It must be obvious that an Hospital in such a city, to meet all the demands of so many, must be upon a broad scale, and not furnished with a solitary physician merely, but with one at least for each of the departments of a general Hospital;—one for the eye; another for the ear; a third for cutaneous affections; a fourth for diseases of females; one for diseases of children; and still another, for fevers. A retreat for the insane, and an asylum for lepers should also be established without delay.

What are some of the other accessible and eligible places to which the mind turns, as we look forward to the opening of the country? Chushan, *e. g.*, where Dr. Lockhart has received from three to four thousand patients. The influence of a well-conducted *General Hospital*, in the midst of its 60,000 permanent inhabitants, and the multitude of transient visitors from the continent, from Formosa, and neighbouring islands, would be incalculable; and it is probable that at no distant day, the Formosands, seeing these institutions blessing the parent empire, and tolerated by its government, will be eager to enjoy the same boon. *Honkong*, or whatever place is received in its stead, will



become another desirable position; and we are sanguine in the belief, that before these are fully occupied, others equally advantageous will become accessible; and that even Nanking and Peking may yet be embraced within the sphere of the Medical Missionary Society's operations. We speak of the education of Chinese youth in the Medical profession,—how is this to be effected? The work has been begun. Several young men of promise are in a course of training, by gentlemen in connection with the society, being educated in their own and the English language. One of them is entirely supported by his father. The Royal College of Surgeons have nobly come forward in this cause, and will educate these youth who shall be selected and sent to England. May not the Royal College of Physicians do as much? Will not Cambridge, Oxford, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Edinburgh imitate the example? A medical gentleman in New York has pledged himself for the support of the same number in that city as the Royal College of Surgeons. Cannot Boston, New-Haven, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, vie in the good work?

It is obvious, that to accomplish what may now be done at Canton and Macao, the amount of means will be considerable, and to effect all that is soberly contemplated, in the expectation of extending similar institutions to other parts of the empire along its border, the demand will be still greater. A fund of at least £20,000 or an annual sum of £1200 is exceedingly desirable, and after a year or two, from the restoration of peace, double that sum will be called for. The agents of the Society receive their entire support from the Societies which send them out; but the medicines, instruments, library, and other expenses of the Hospital are to be paid by this Society, and more or less expense will attend the sending of Chinese to England, or their education in China. Experience may teach, that the education should be given, for the most part, in China, and that a Medical College will be required; and if so, this, too, must be endowed from the funds of the Society, and the support of the Professors in the College must be provided for.

A few obstacles and objections that have been raised require a brief notice. The first is, "*We have poor enough in England;*" "our own Hospitals are inadequate to the necessities of the needy sick." The delicacy of the case forbids to mention living objectors of this description. This reflection, however, forced itself upon my own mind,—could these individuals of undoubted benevolence, yet of *contracted* views, but inform themselves of the extent and condition of the whole world, either from books or travelling, they would be filled with surprise that the village or borough in which they were born could ever have so absorbed all their interest! It would have the happy effect of showing, that what they regarded as so great, is a "bagatelle," and they would no longer contract their efforts to the "nut shell," in which too many, as it respects their influence, live and die, but would expand their sympathies wide as the wants of men, and put forth exertions commensurate with their abilities and opportunities of blessing a world.

Again, it is objected that "China is far off." Undoubtedly it is; but this does not diminish its claims, or render the evils it suffers less serious. Its fevers are as burning—insanity as raving—leprosy as polluting—blindness is as great—its cancer and stone as painful, and gout as excruciating as they would be, if only the Mersey or the British Channel separated them from the skill and charity that could relieve them. And what is more to the point, the money is as easily given to be expended on the one side of the world as the other. The donor

has but to put it into the authorized channel, and, without farther solicitude on his part, it is conveyed directly to its specified destination.

“The Chinese are rich and able to support their own hospitals.” They are the same that they have been time immemorial, and yet the people remain in all their destitution of the blessings we seek for them. A few officers and wealthy merchants have offered pay, but any thing beyond a trifling present has been uniformly declined, as it would detract much from the moral influence of the Institutions, were they to be known to the people as other than the fruits of the benevolence of the Christian nations they affect to despise. There will be no objection to the young men who are educated by us receiving fees. When the government and the people generally know the value of the skill and science foreigners possess, and are imbued with the Christian spirit, then our work in this society will be done; when the superstructure is completed, the staging may be taken down; but at present the tender mercies of the *rich* Chinese are cruelty, as ocular demonstration have too often evinced to us in the calamity of field, flood, and famine. *The fact is too invincible that these suffering millions must remain as they are, or find relief from their “FAR OFF” fellow-beings.*

And the mention at last, not least, of the objections is, “we are at WAR with China,” and every thing is *in nubibus* as it respects our future relations with that country. Perhaps it should suffice to say, if hostilities continue, and no opportunity should present of appropriating the money, *it shall be refunded or held subject to the order of the donors.* But from this apparent objection, a cogent argument is derived in favour of doing speedily and liberally for this cause. When sweeping anathemas were pronounced upon England by high officers belonging to the “suit” of the Imperial Lein, the question was put to them—“are you not aware that even under the Celestial Dynasty there are good and bad? So among those you denounce *all* evil there are multitudes who desire the best good of your country. Respecting the insufferable traffic in opium, there is but one sentiment among all virtuous people of every nation.” They were silent. Now the opportunity presents of verifying that assertion. Dr. Lockhart, at Chusân, and Dr. Hobson, at Macao, have attempted it. The Chinese, it has been remarked, could not at first comprehend that after having been wounded in battle with the English, they were carried to surgeons of that very nation to be healed, and apprehended they were doomed to *torture* and a more painful death; but, in the healing hand of the foreigner, they learned that he did not thirst for blood, nor delight in hostilities for their own sake. We are sanguine that this campaign is not to be long protracted if properly managed; and indeed, at this moment the terms of an honourable treaty may have been settled, and friendly relations have commenced. Thousands have fallen in the field of battle, and tens of thousands of widows and orphans may have been multiplied within the last two years; but hundreds of millions still survive, and in behalf of these and their successors in coming generations, we ask anew the means of demonstrating the true character of Christian nations, and of accomplishing all the temporal and spiritual good contemplated by the “Medical Missionary Society in China.”



M E E T I N G

IN BEHALF OF THE

MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN CHINA,

HELD IN

EXETER HALL BUILDING, LONDON, JULY 15TH, 1841.

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AT a meeting of the friends of "the Medical Missionary Society in China," held on the 15th instant, in Exeter Hall, Sir George Robinson, Bart., on motion of Ebenezer Smith, Esq., seconded by H. H. Lindsay, M.P., was called to the chair. Sir George, on taking the chair, observed he had but recently arrived in the city, and that he had heard of the meeting only incidentally, but such was the interest he felt in the object, he had set aside every other engagement that he might be present. The Baronet then proceeded to inform the audience that, when he had the honour to hold the office of Chief Superintendent of British trade in China, he had the high satisfaction of witnessing the successful operations of the Society, and alluded in terms highly honourable to Pearson, Morrison, Livingston, and Colledge. He said he had much pleasure in meeting in this city Dr. Parker from America, whom he had known in China, and whose successful operations he had there followed with great interest. He alluded particularly to the amputation of an arm at the shoulder joint. Sir George Robinson expressed his full conviction, founded upon his personal knowledge of the Chinese, that the plan of the Medical Missionary Society was peculiarly fitted to the end it proposes, and he wished it all prosperity, and was ready to serve the cause in any way in his power. He had much pleasure in calling upon Dr. Parker, who would give some account of the state of medicine and surgery in China, and of what has been accomplished, and what may yet be, by the "Medical Missionary Society."

Dr. Parker then arose and addressed the audience, after some preliminary observations, nearly as follows:—"Gentlemen, you have been respectfully invited to attend this meeting, as being interested in the 'Medical Missionary Society in China,' and your acceptance of the invitation, and your presence, notwithstanding the unpleasantness of the evening, are gratifying evidences of your regard for so benevolent and vast an object." He held in his hand several letters from highly respectable men, expressing regret that they were prevented from being present.

As the claims of the Society are in part based upon the destitution of enlightened medical and surgical skill in that country, he considered it appropriate to advert, though cursorily, to that subject, and give some illustrations of the present state of the healing art, as well as to allude to the operations in which he had been engaged during the most of the last seven years in China. Dr. Parker was inclined to think there had been a better state of medicine and surgery among the Chinese than at present. The universal encomiums pronounced upon Whâto, who flourished in the twelfth century of the Christian era, indicate this, and imply that he was a bold operating surgeon. Tradition represents him as accustomed to operate for necrosis of bones; and that he was put to death for proposing to trephine the emperor. His majesty suspected he had designs upon his life, and in resentment caused the surgeon to be executed, and his works to be burnt. It is in consequence of this that tradition is the only source of information respecting this extraordinary man.



Whatever may have been the knowledge of surgery in former times, there is at present nothing deserving the appellation. To open an abscess with a lancet was the greatest operation he had known. Government sometimes orders the amputation of all the limbs, and even of the *head*! How, in the amputation of the legs and arms, the hemorrhage was commanded, was difficult to say, but probably first by the application of charpie or other styptics, and then by applying a compress and roller round the whole stump. He had had a patient who fell from the roof of a house, and ran a splinter of wood about five inches long into his body, penetrating the *sphincter-ani muscle*, and wounding the prostate gland. This the patient retained about three years, not daring to extract it, though the wood protruded more than an inch. At length the splinter worked out of itself. When he came to the hospital he voided his urine from a fistula above the pubes, and was reduced to a skeleton, having been the subject of great sufferings, which were shortly after terminated by death. Another case occurred of a lad who had an adhesion of the edges of the eye-lids, depriving him of the sight of the eye for seven years. There was a space sufficient to introduce a probe at one angle and out at the other; and then with a single snip of the scissors the union was severed, and a beautiful black eye exposed to view.

Dr. P. then proceeded to remark upon their medical books, of which there is no deficiency in numbers. He said the *Pun-tsaou*, or *Materia Medica*, of the Chinese, exceeds forty volumes: that the system of classification in Botany and Natural History was as good as that adopted by western nations prior to the time of Jusseu and Linnæus. Plants are classified by their *habitat*: birds also accordingly as they are found most frequently in the forest or the marsh; and animals, as they possess some points of resemblance to each other, either in figure or mode of living. Their description of plants and animals are often accurate; and their therapeutics and pharmaceutics are well defined. The *effects* of some articles of their *Materia Medica* are well described, but the *causes* of disease, and other *hypotheses*, upon which they explain the "*modus operandi*" of their remedies, are often childish and *absurd*. They believe in the influence of the dual principle of nature, the Ying and the Yang, and also of the five elements as controlling diseases.

The Chinese; as is well known, attach great importance to the pulse, and pretend to distinguish many kinds, some of which resemble the European classification. They have the weak and strong pulse, the undulating and bounding, and also what they denominate the "floating" and "deep" pulses. They attach importance to the point at which the pulse is felt, whether at the wrist or a few inches up the fore-arm. By the pulse some pretend to determine, during gestation, whether the offspring is to be male or female. Dr. P. remarked that the Chinese are probably more successful in the treatment of *fevers*, by a kind of negative practice, attending to the diet, administering what they call "cooling" medicines, and generally in cases that belong to the physician rather than the surgeon. The two fundamental principles with them are, that "hot" diseases should be treated with "cooling" remedies, and *vice versa*. They give sudorifics, refrigerants, or stimulants, according to this classification of symptoms. In cases of debility, the bones of the tiger, reduced to a powder, and made into pills, are administered as a tonic. Their reasoning is, that the tiger is very strong, and the bone is the strongest part of the strong animal; therefore, a pill of this must be pre-eminently strengthening. The stag's horn sells at an extravagant price, and is cut into thin pieces and macerated in spirits.

Dr. Parker expressed an opinion that, their *Materia Medica*, when better known by Europeans, will be found to possess valuable sudorifics, diuretics, and refrigerants, from the vegetable kingdom. He remarked, they combine many ingredients in their prescriptions, on the principle, that out of the great number some one may be the right one. The Imperial Commissioner, Lein, wished from him a recipe for curing those who are accustomed to the use of opium, and when it was explained that there is no *specific*, that each case must be treated according to the symptoms, he desired to know if Dr. P. could not combine some twenty or thirty ingredients, and specify the quantity of the compound required to cure each patient.

Upon the medical education of the Chinese, he remarked, they have no distinct medical schools. A diploma is sometimes conferred by the Honlin College, at Peking, upon persons who have gained some distinction for their pretensions in this art; but, generally, the son becomes a physician because his father was, and the parent's nostrums descend to the son; or if he dies without issue, they are sold as a part of his estate. An instance occurred in Dr. Parker's practice, in which a young man cut off his own tongue, and the hemorrhage was commanded by a vegetable styptic, the recipe of which he could not obtain for any consideration. It appears the Chinese have a great variety of medicines, both from the vegetable and mineral kingdoms. As illustrative of the little confidence the Chinese repose in their own physicians, he quoted the remark of an intelligent man, who said, if his father or mother were sick, he must send for a physician, for such was the custom of the country; but truly, he added, it is of little consequence who is called, *all* are alike useless—"physicians of no value." It is a common practice to take the names of several physicians, and draw one of them by lot.

Having given a number of illustrations of the ignorance and quackery of the Chinese that had fallen under his own observation, he (Dr. Parker,) remarked that, in such a state of medical practice, the people were most ready to appreciate and welcome the superior skill of Europeans. In alluding to the history of the efforts of western nations to confer some of the benefits of a more scientific and skilful practice, he gave a just tribute to his friend, Dr. T. R. Colledge, who, by his successful endeavours to benefit the Chinese, he considered entitled to a place on the same list of philanthropists as Howard, Clarkson, and Wilberforce. Beside his employments as surgeon to the Honourable East India Company, he found leisure, and did not spare the labour, to treat many hundreds, and even thousands, of Chinese of all ranks, and from different parts of the empire, who gave him unequivocal tokens of gratitude.

As most of his audience had seen the pamphlet respecting the "Establishment of Hospitals in China," and as there were those to follow him who had been in China, and would favour the assembly with the results of their observations, he said it was unnecessary for him longer to occupy their attention. Having given a brief account of the hospitals, and having explained the origin of the Medical Missionary Society, he adverted to the magnitude of the enterprise; that there is but one China, with its 360,000,000; that he regarded the object as one which particularly commends itself to the sympathies of the medical profession: and although he would not anticipate others, he wished to notice an assertion upon the profession of medicine—that its tendency is to fatalism and materialism; and to blunt the better susceptibilities of man's nature, insomuch that some had become so indifferent to human suffering as to stop in the midst of an amputation, and refuse to proceed unless the terms of the operator were acceded to. Such a case, he remarked, might have occurred, but who would not say the man was unworthy to be called a surgeon! The smile, to give it a mild term, that he had sometimes witnessed, when it was suggested that *medical men* would take an interest in the benevolent object now proposed, was something more like evidence that they had become wanting in the spirit of benevolence; but, said he, it is time practically to refute the *calumny*. He would appeal to history and inquire, who, when pestilence and plague were depopulating cities, had stood between the destroyer and their fellow-men, at the risk of their own lives, and would do it again? He would appeal to the faculty and ask, if it is to be conceded that they are only or chiefly interested in their profession as it affords emolument, and gives influence and a name? Or, are there not those who regard as their richest reward, the alleviations of human suffering, and the *gratitude* of those whose health and lives had been instrumentally saved by them? Witness, said he, the triumphs of surgery as in *aneurism* and *stone*, and behold the emotions of the relieved sufferer, and say, if there be not in this a gratification which no emolument can equal! Now, gentlemen, the object proposed is no less than to extend to the most populous empire that has ever existed similar benefits; an object that is *practicable*. If the medical profession of the present age will take it up, and, with the co-operation of the clergy, will give it their united support, the enterprise, great as



it is, shall be gained. If they will not, it remains for an age more benevolent, and for men more philanthropic, to bestow on the Chinese the boon, and to share the satisfaction of having blest such an empire.

Several resolutions were then submitted, and carried unanimously. The first was moved by Wm. Jardine, M.P., and seconded by Thomas Hodgkin, M.D.

1. Resolved, "That this audience regard with deep interest the operations of the 'Medical Missionary Society in China,' established by American and English residents at Macao and Canton, and believe the plan adopted happily calculated to teach the Chinese the true character of western nations, and the Christian religion, besides being a means of great good in the relief of much human suffering."

Mr. Jardine in moving the resolution stated what had fallen under his own observation in China, and remarked, he could enumerate many things which Dr. Parker's modesty did not allow him to mention. He recollected an instance in which a member of the Imperial family applied to the Doctor for relief: that officers of high rank, and in great numbers, had availed themselves of his skill. Tablets and poems, without number, had been presented by patients, containing the expressions of their gratitude. In reference to the case alluded to, in which the splinter remained so long, he explained, that a native practitioner would have been afraid to extract it, because if death had followed, he might have been held responsible.

Dr. Hodgkin said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution;—that the object of the society was most philanthropic, and happily adapted to recommend to uncivilized and heathen nations the Christian religion: that it addressed itself to the senses and the interests of such men, and was a powerful means of gaining their confidence and gratitude: that all history proved it, and he adduced some examples that had occurred in Africa; but he urged as most important, that it was the course pursued by the *Saviour himself*, who, while seeking, first and chiefly, the good of the soul, did not fail to care for the bodies also of men. He thought it a delightful feature of the Society, that Christians of different nations were united in it, and spoke in terms of high commendation, that Americans had not taken advantage of the present position of England towards China, to the prejudice of the English, and expressed his satisfaction, that his friend Dr. Parker had availed himself of the crisis to visit this country, and that he should have been sorry to have had him leave London without this meeting: that nothing was more calculated to convince the Chinese of the disinterestedness of the Christian religion, than to see those who are its friends, irrespective of national differences, uniting to disseminate their common religion, or words to that effect.

The second Resolution was moved by Theophilus Thomson, M.D., and seconded by H. H. Lindsay, M.P.

2. Resolved, "That the objects and claims of the Medical Missionary Society in China especially commend themselves to the sympathy and co-operation of the *Medical Profession*."

We regret not being able to give in his own words the remarks with which Dr. Thomson moved this Resolution. It had been a subject of surprise to him, that this mode of doing good had been so much overlooked in conducting Missionary operations. That it was a fact of deep interest to the medical profession, that the great Author of our religion (he said it with reverence,) was the *first Medical Missionary*. He said this Society aimed at something more than the triumphs of science. Honours more distinguished than those of discoverers and geographers attend those who engage in it. That it contemplates not merely the removal of the sufferings of this life, but those also which death cannot terminate. It regards not only the body, but especially the soul, &c.

Mr. Lindsay arose and expressed his high sense of the services of this Society, and the exalted principles by which its agents are actuated. That they must be influenced by a higher motive than this life affords. It is a *religious service* they render. He then mentioned what he also had witnessed in the hospitals in China, and corroborated the statements of Sir George Robinson, and others who had preceded him. He alluded to a coroner's inquest, held by the Nanhaehëen, in a case of death of a patient, that occurred in the hospital while he was in Canton, as illustrating the influence of the institution, which, by this event, was



brought distinctly before the government. The testimony of the Hong merchants in their petition requesting the government to pursue the legal course on the occasion, was highly commendatory of the institution.

The third Resolution was moved by the Rev. Evan Davis, and seconded by Dr. Risdon Bennett.

3d Resolution. "In anticipation of the operations of the Medical Missionary Society in China, not only being fully resumed, but that they may be prosecuted upon a much wider basis than before, and with increased facilities; and much of the local support being cut off, *Resolved*, That Committees be appointed in London, and the same be recommended in other parts of England, and also in America, to consult with any persons who may take an interest in the Medical establishments in China, and to take such measures as may seem expedient to obtain the aid required."

[A provincial Committee, consisting of several members of Parliament, members of the medical profession, and ministers of the gospel of different denominations, was appointed.]

A fourth Resolution was moved by George Fadescant Lay, Esq., and seconded by J. Sparks, Esq.

4th Resolution. *Resolved*, "That the Committee be requested to embrace a favourable opportunity of bringing this subject before the public generally, and that a meeting in Exeter Hall, or elsewhere, be convened for the purpose, and also to take the requisite measures for raising the funds to sustain and extend the operations of this Society among the millions of China."

A vote of thanks to the chairman, Sir George Robinson, Bart., was then moved by Ebenezer Smith, Esq., and seconded by Horatio Hardy, Esq., and the meeting adjourned.

N.B.—An Auxiliary Society had been previously formed in London, entitled, the "Medical Philanthropic Society, for China and the East," and will act in concert with the provisional Committee appointed at this meeting.

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## MEETING IN BEHALF OF THE MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN CHINA,

*Convened in Edinburgh, July 26th, 1841.*

A MEETING in behalf of the Medical Missionary Society in China was held on the 26th instant, at the Waterloo Hotel in Edinburgh. The Lord Provost of the city, Sir James Spital, was called to the chair. Dr. Abercrombie stated the object of the meeting, and said, he had great pleasure in introducing Dr. Parker of America, whose successful labours as a Medical Missionary in China, for a number of years, had rendered his name familiar, &c., and who would more fully explain the objects of the Society in whose behalf he had visited Scotland.

Dr. Parker then addressed the meeting at some length, giving a view of the present state of Medical knowledge in China, a detailed account of his own labours, the circumstances under which the Medical Missionary Society had originated, and the claims of the Chinese, and adverted with animation to the present indications of Providence concerning that empire.

Notwithstanding the very short notice which had been given, a very respectable number of the *elite* of the city were present, and listened with manifest interest to the communications of Dr. Parker on the occasion. The university, the clergy, the medical profession, the merchants and bankers of Edinburgh, were well represented at the meeting. At its close, on motion of Rev. Dr. Welsh, seconded by Dr. Beilby, the subjoined Committee were appointed, with power to add to their number. A vote of thanks being moved to the Lord Provost, and carried by acclamation, the meeting adjourned.

Committee in Edinburgh formed to co-operate with the Medical Missionary Society in China:—

SIR GEORGE BALLINGALL.	REV. DR. WELSH.
SIR WM. NEWBIGGING.	REV. DR. DICKSON.
DR. ABERCROMBIE.	REV. DR. PATERSON.
DR. ALISON.	REV. D. T. K. DRUMMOND.
DR. BEILBY.	REV. JAMES BUCHANAN.
DR. COLDSTREAM.	REV. WM. INNES.
DR. GRAHAM, Pres. R.C.P.	REV. GEO. D. CULLEN.
DR. HUIE, Pres. R.C.S.	ARCH. BONAR, ESQ.
PROFESSOR SYME.	JOHN DUNLOP, ESQ.
JOSEPH BELL, ESQ.	J. S. MORE, ESQ.
WILLIAM BROWN, ESQ.	
JOHN THOMSON, ESQ., (Pres. R. Bank of Scot.,) <i>Treasurer.</i>	
DR. RANSFORD, <i>Secretary.</i>	

N.B.—Dr. Parker had also an opportunity of addressing an audience of Ladies in Edinburgh, on the same subject, and is encouraged to expect efficient aid from them also in this object.

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## MEETING IN GLASGOW, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 1841.

A MEETING, similar to the one held in Edinburgh, convened at Carrick's Royal Hotel, in Glasgow, on the 28th instant. The Lord Provost, Hon. James Campbell, was called to the chair. W. P. Paton, Esq. stated to the audience, that he could not better introduce Dr. Parker, than by reading a letter he brought from James Mathieson, Esq., of Canton, to William Mathieson, Esq., of this city. Having read the letter, he said that Dr. Parker was personally a stranger to him till within a few days, although he had long been familiar with his name and success in China, and that of his friend Dr. Colledge. William Gemmel, Esq., late of Canton, being called upon, expressed the interest he had felt in the hospitals there, and spoke of the good they had effected. Dr. Parker then presented, as on other occasions, the objects and claims of the Society in China, &c., &c., and which were listened to with apparently deep regard, by the following gentlemen present:—

Hon. James Campbell, Rev. Dr. Smith, Rev. Dr. Buchanan, Rev. Lewis Rose; Drs. John Macfarlane, Perry, Ritchie, Watson, Rainy, Davidson, and King; Messrs. A. Galbraith, Wm. Gemmel, J. Gemmel, H. Crum, A. Duncan, J. S. Blyth, M. Lethem, Edward Clarke, and W. P. Paton. In consequence of a letter from Edinburgh failing to reach its destination in Glasgow in due time, the notice of this was very limited. The gentlemen present having formed themselves into an interim Committee, the thanks of the audience was moved to the Lord Provost for his services on the occasion, and the meeting adjourned.

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## MEETINGS IN LIVERPOOL, AUG. 2<sup>D</sup> AND 3<sup>D</sup>, 1841.

A MEETING of the medical profession of Liverpool was held at the Hall of the Medical Institution, on the 2d of August, 1841. Dr. Fromby was called to the chair. The following notice of this meeting is taken from the *Liverpool Standard* of the 3d August, 1841.

“*Meeting of the Medical Profession of the Town, on the State of Medical Science, &c., in China.*—Yesterday, at one o'clock, a meeting of medical and surgical gentlemen of the town, and others, was held at the Medical Institution, Mount Pleasant, in pursuance of invitation from Dr. Parker, who has recently returned from a successful missionary campaign in China, and who proposed to



submit a brief statement of the present state of medicine and surgery in China, and the establishment of hospitals in that country.

“The meeting, almost solely of professional men, was numerously attended. The whole of the seats in the lecture-room were occupied, their being present from fifty to sixty individuals. Dr. Fromby was called to the chair. Dr. Parker, in his exordium, dwelt upon the importance of the objects he had in view, which were, first, to enlighten the empire of China in the sciences of physic and surgery; and secondly, having opened the way by their means, to spread amongst the vast population of that country, the blessings of Christianity. He went on to show the defective and erroneous state of medical science in that country. He then proceeded to adduce a number of cases that had fallen within his own experience, showing the great value of hospitals in that country, not only in the advancement of science amongst the nations, and in the practical benevolent effects, but in conciliating the good feelings of the natives, and thereby clearing the way for the introduction of Christian principles among them, and by removing the jealousy of foreigners, entertained by that extraordinary people, tending, in a high degree, to promote between them and Europeans an amicable and profitable system of commerce. He instanced a case of treatment for suspended animation, from immersion in the water, and a variety of others, showing the extreme ignorance of the Chinese faculty, and detailed his success in many of them, to the astonishment of the Chinese, whose gratitude was unbounded. He next noticed the labours of British practitioners in China. Amongst these was Dr. Pearson, formerly of this town, who was the first to introduce vaccination, now extensively practised there, a native doctor named Longhead, (from the extraordinary length of his head,) being now the principal practitioner in Canton. The latter said, during a practice of thirty years, he had vaccinated upwards of a million of persons. Drs. Livingstone, Morrison, and Colledge, had also been highly successful. Dr. Colledge, in treating cases of ophthalmia, had restored to the dark eye-balls of hundreds the blessed light of day. He himself had embarked for China in 1834, attached to the A. B. C. F. M., and the scene of his labours had chiefly been at the ophthalmic hospital at Canton. Another was also established at Macao. He had also been to Singapore, where he established an infirmary, and soon became known as ‘the foreign physician.’ The patients who were cured or relieved were, he added, very generally induced to read the Society’s books, and he related several affecting instances of their conversion to Christianity. At first he received but slight encouragement, but eventually one patient brought another, until the street was frequently crowded with applicants for relief. During the recent political commotions his labours, and those who acted with him, were nearly arrested, but he attended to patients at his own house. Before he left Canton, in June last year, the number of patients had not been less than eight thousand. Many of the chief officers of the empire, (including Imperial Commissioner Lin,) had sought and obtained relief, and their expressions of gratitude were unbounded. The institution was opened for cases of ophthalmia alone; but soon surgical cases forced themselves upon his attention, which it was impossible not to attend to; and, though the original name of the institution was retained, it had now become a general hospital. He noticed several cases of the cure of cataract—and one in particular, of an old woman of seventy-eight. The treatment of the native doctors in these and other cases was most unscientific. A case of cure of a young woman who fell from the roof of a house during a thunder-storm, and was severely wounded, excited much interest. He next noticed a variety of successful operations on parties afflicted with enormous tumours. The gratitude of the parties in these and other cases was excessive, and demonstrated, in some instances, in affecting pieces of poetry, or in that poetical language peculiar to eastern countries. Among others, the father of a little girl, who was brought and cured, afterwards brought a tablet on which was inscribed ‘You have removed the flaw from the gem, and my beloved child is again a perfect pearl.’ He concluded by a strong appeal in behalf of the Medical Missionary Society. The principal immediate object was to encourage gentlemen of the medical profession to go and practice gratuitously among the Chinese, by affording the usual aid of hospitals, medicine, and atten-



dants; but the support or remuneration of such medical gentlemen was no at present within its contemplation. From the peculiar character of the people, and their government, it was requisite that the Missionary should, in addition to a thirst for the propagation of Christianity, possess the capabilities of the physician and surgeon. He enumerated many friends of the institution in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other towns, including Sir George Stanton, the Rev. Dr. Wardlaw, the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Wellington, Sir R. Peel, and many others. The medical profession, who had ever been the foremost to encounter plague and pestilence for the relief of their fellow creatures, would, he trusted, not be backward in assisting to give enlightened practice to a country containing 360,000,000 of inhabitants. Great success had already attended the circumscribed operations of the Society, and if the English and Americans, (the latter of whom had already come forward most humanely in the cause,) only put their shoulders to the wheel, Christianity, combined with the healing art, would take root in China. In regard to commerce, too, the chief superintendent of British trade well remarked of the Society, that the surgeon's knife was better calculated to conciliate the Chinese than any weapons of war. The Royal College of Surgeons in this country had, he was happy to say, agreed to educate three Chinese youths, to promote the objects in view; and when he returned to China, it would be his object to select three promising young men for that purpose. After a warm eulogium on Dr. Lockhart, for his labours in the cause, he concluded by stating, that if the medical men here would forward the objects stated, in behalf of the millions in China, their benevolence would meet with the heart-felt gratitude of all who were attached to the cause which he had the pleasure to advocate.

"After a vote of thanks being passed to Dr. Parker, for the interesting information he had afforded, a Medical Committee was named, and appointed to carry out his views. Among them were,

DR. FORMBY.	DR. SUTHERLAND.
MR. BICKERSTETH.	MR. BATTÿ.
MR. BLACKBURN.	MR. EDEN.
DR. DICKENS.	MR. NEILL.
DR. RAMSAY.	DR. ROBERTSON.
MR. ELLISON.	DR. MOFFAT.
MR. BLOWER.	

A further Committee of non-professional gentlemen remains to be formed at a subsequent meeting. The meeting then separated."

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## GENERAL MEETING, HELD AUG. 3D, 1841.

*August 3d, 1841.*

A GENERAL MEETING of ladies and gentlemen of all the principal religious denominations, was held in the Charitable Institution in Slater-Street, Liverpool. Samuel Job, Esq. was called to the chair, and after appropriate remarks expressive of his sense of the importance of the object of the meeting, called upon the Rev. Dr. Ralph to lead an address to the throne of grace.

Rev. P. Parker, M.D., then arose and addressed a full and attentive audience as follows:—"It is not an ordinary object, my friends, for which we are convened this morning. Could we obviate the circumstances that tend to diminish the apparent interest, I mean the distance from us of the objects of our benevolent interest, and the fact, that to most of us they are unseen and unknown; could we *mentally even* annihilate the intervening space of the diameter of the globe between us and the Chinese; could we by any means bring distinctly before the mental and moral eye, *the Chinese as they are*—in all their destitution of the richest blessings we enjoy, and we in their stead afflicted with the opposite of these blessings, I am sure there is not one here who would not admit the correctness of the conclusion, that it is an extraordinary occasion for which we are con-

vened; for it is no less than to take measures to promote the best temporal and eternal welfare of hundreds of millions of our fellow-men.

Perceiving that a full report of the facts stated at the meeting of medical and other gentlemen, yesterday, has been given in the Liverpool papers of this morning, I shall avoid repeating in detail the illustrations of the state of the healing art in China, farther than to show the general fact that the Chinese, with all their pretensions to wisdom and superiority, are exceedingly destitute of skilful physicians, and that the grossest quackery prevails among them. They have no regular system of medical education. The study of anatomy is not practised, and surgery of course is unknown.

It was at comparatively an early age I was led to see my need of the grace of the Gospel, and to find the Saviour to be the chief of ten thousand. In early youth the contrast between things which are merely *temporal* and those that are *eternal*, was deeply impressed upon my mind, and the fixed desire was formed to live in reference to the *whole* of my existence; that portion which is beyond the grave, as well as on this side of it. With these views, my purpose (providence permitting) of becoming a missionary to China was made, and before leaving America, the sincerest and strongest desires of my heart were *felt* and *cherished* to labour for the accomplishment of *permanent* good; good that shall extend beyond the brief period of the longest life. The reflection often crossed my mind and lingered as it passed, that a thousand years hence it will be of comparatively little consequence what the bodies of the Chinese suffered or enjoyed here; but that no coming period or cycle of ages will diminish the benefit done to the soul. I mention this, my respected friends, not for the sake of obtruding upon you things of so personal a nature, and which may be regarded as belonging exclusively to one's own bosom; but I do it for the sake of showing under what circumstances *so much of my time* and energies have been devoted to healing the maladies of the body. It has been with these feelings, and with the best exercise of my judgment, and the approbation of God, that my course as a Medical Missionary has been adopted. When the house is *built* we shall be willing the staging be taken down. After presenting an account of the origin of the Medical Missionary Society, and facts illustrative of the benefits of the hospitals; that Dr. Colledge had treated 4000, Dr. Parker 8000, Dr. Lockhart 3000, and Dr. Hobson a considerable number more, he gave some *details* of his own practice in diseases of the eyes and *tumours*, and other surgical cases, which were listened to with deep interest.

He then adverted particularly to Dr. Lockhart of Liverpool, who had sacrificed flattering prospects at home, that he might extend to the Chinese the blessings of the Gospel, and said that God had most signally owned his labours, particularly in *Chushan*, where such multitudes had sought his aid. He spoke of the interest manifested by ladies in London and in Edinburgh; gave a feeling account of the desolations of war in that country; that though oceans and continents obstruct the reports of cannon from falling upon our ears, yet they reverberate on the hills and through the valleys of China. Mothers and daughters there had been violated, and widows and orphans have been multiplied. You do not see it, but the appalling facts stand out. In times past I have told the Chinese that they have friends in England—was I mistaken? Then let the assurance be verified. We ask not that you engage in a Quixotic enterprise, but in one that has been submitted to the test of experiment and succeeds. *The Saviour adopted it*: his apostles adopted it; and so have others in ancient and modern times. Elliot the apostle to the American Indians tried it. Dr. Grant (whose book respecting the lost ten tribes will richly reward those who shall peruse it) has tried it in Persia. Dr. Bradley in Siam. A Christian Jew is now on his way from Cambridge (England) to Jerusalem, in the capacity of a Medical Missionary; but no where has the experiment succeeded better than at Macao, Canton, and Chushan. In conclusion, Christian friends, with what delight should we *cherish* the fresh hopes revived in us, that an auspicious morning has dawned upon China! that one avenue at least into the empire is, in the providence of God, now opened. Have you been sincere in your prayers for that country? then your hearts must rejoice at the prospect of soon realising the answers to them.



Several Resolutions were then passed unanimously. The first was moved by the Rev. Dr. Ralph, and seconded by Rev. John Kelly. 1st. "That the meeting regards, with deep interest, and with gratitude to God, the operations of the Medical Missionary Society in China, (established by American and English residents at Canton and Macao,) by which the blessings of the healing art have been extended to more than 10,000 Chinese; and believe the plan adopted by the Society most happily calculated to convey to the Chinese the true character of Christian nations and the Christian religion, and that it is fully sanctioned by the precepts and example of the Saviour."

We are unable to do justice to Dr. Ralph, in reporting the observations with which he moved the resolution. He thought pious medical men everywhere were not aware of the great and good influence they are capable of exercising. He also remarked that the Saviour was no fanatic, and his example was worthy of all imitation. In respect to China we have no choice; the plan adopted by the Medical Missionary Society is almost the only one, and its influence of infinite importance in heathen countries.

The Rev. Mr. Kelly spoke of the simplicity and Catholic principles of the Medical Missionary Society. He would not approve of uniting the two professions in ministers at home. He said the conviction was gaining ground in favour of the plan for heathen countries, and thought there could be no doubt remaining upon the minds of those who had listened to the statement presented by Dr. Parker, and expressed his hope that Liverpool would come forward nobly in support of the cause, and made honourable mention of Dr. Lockhart who had gone out from this city.

Another Resolution was moved by the Rev. Mr. Creighton, and seconded by ——— Roberts, Esq.

Resolved, "That a Committee be appointed to act in conjunction with the Medical Committee already chosen, &c.;" we have not the words of the Resolution. Mr. Creighton said if we go forward the work will be done; the work is of God, and will not fail of accomplishment. The principle of the Society commends itself to every heart and mind. Science, said he, has been used by infidelity to the prejudice of Christianity; here we make it the hand-maid of religion; would that the principle were applied to other lands also. He expressed the hope that the ladies of Liverpool would also take up the cause.

The following Committee was then appointed to co-operate with the one appointed the day before.

—ARMSTRONG, ESQ.	MRS. CAMPBELL.
J. CROPPER, ESQ.	MRS. D. RAMSAY.
MR. ANDERSON.	MRS. WM. HOPE.
MR. MATHESON.	MRS. MATHESON.
MR. THOMPSON, SECY.	MRS. M'FIE.
REV. H. M'NEILL.	MRS. STEWART.
REV. DR. RALPH.	MRS. CRAWFORD.
REV. DR. RAFFLES.	MRS. MAJOR THOMPSON.
REV. J. KELLY.	MRS. DR. SUTHERLAND.
	MRS. LYON.
	MISS E. LOCKHART.

The thanks of the meeting to Samuel Job, Esq. was moved by Rev. P. Parker, and Seconded by Rev. J. Kelly, and the meeting adjourned.

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These, Sir, are abridged and imperfect notices of the meetings held in different cities in Great Britain. In numerous other cities similar ones had been held, if the early period fixed for my return had not prevented. I regretted my inability to visit Manchester and Leeds, and particularly not to be able to accept a polite invitation to attend the meeting of the Medical Association of Great Britain, at their annual meeting held at York.



Though the objects are many and vast which are contemplated in this Pamphlet, and the amount of money requisite is considerable; yet, Sir, it is obvious from the persons who have taken up the cause, and from the resources of the two countries, nothing can be more practicable. The learned and accomplished *Whewell*, in his most interesting address before the British Association for the promotion of Science, says, "That I may not dwell on mere generalities, I will mention a few of the sums expended by the Association upon scientific researches;" and stated, "that in the eighth and ninth years of the existence of that Association over £1500 were each year expended; and it appears that during the past year we have expended in this manner the sum of £1240. And these sums, it is to be observed, are only a part of what were voted at Liverpool in 1837; above £3000 was voted, of which £1000 only was applied for. At Newcastle £3700 was voted, £1600 of this was paid. At Birmingham £2800 was voted, and £1500 paid. The sum voted at Glasgow last year was £2600, of which £1240 was paid." Now these were generous sums, and for a noble object; one that contemplates the elevation and the happiness, not of Great Britain merely, but of *mankind*. Yet, in a *practical* point of view, is not the object now proposed, of alleviating the pains, opening the eyes of the blind, and elevating to immortality 360,000,000 of fellow-beings in China, one of far greater magnitude, and deserving a proportionate generosity on the part of the benevolent and religious public?

With sentiments, dear Sir, of highest esteem and friendship, yours sincerely,

PETER PARKER.

N.B.—Since the above was written, I have received a letter from Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., enclosing a letter from the Royal College of Surgeons, a copy of which is appended, as it illustrates the good will of that important body to the object.

*"Royal College of Surgeons in London, 8th Sept. 1841.*

"Sir,—Your letter to Mr. Vincent, the late President, of the 21st of June last, enclosing, and recommending to favourable consideration, a letter from the Rev. Dr. Parker, requesting the co-operation of this College in sustaining the hospitals already established in China, and in founding others, and, in any way consistent with the designs of this College, aiding in the education of a number of Chinese of talent in the healing art, has been laid before the council.

"And I am directed by the President, Mr. Guthrie, to acquaint you, that the council is desirous of forwarding, in any feasible manner, the object of Dr. Parker's application, and will be ready to communicate with the Secretary of State upon the subject, if deemed expedient. At the same time I have to state the conviction of the President, that gratuitous surgical education may be guaranteed to six or more Chinese youths, in some of the public hospitals of this metropolis, if any arrangement could be made for their care and support therein.

"I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed)

"EDWARD BAIFOUR, *Secy.*"

"*Sir Geo. Thos. Staunton, Bart., &c. &c. &c.*"

# ESTABLISHMENT

OF

## HOSPITALS IN CHINA.

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THAT the union of the art of healing with that of teaching, in the missionary of modern times, is as important as in the early ages of Christianity, is no longer doubtful. The experiment has been made, and succeeds. Healing by miraculous agency was employed at the commencement of the Christian era, chiefly as other preternatural powers were, to establish the divinity of Christianity. A still further object was to exhibit the beneficent spirit of the Gospel. The age of miracles and the occasion for them ceased together ; but the *spirit* of the Gospel is the same in every age. Healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, and causing the tongue of the dumb to speak and the lame to walk, by natural and scientific means, is not less calculated, in the nature of things, to conciliate favour, and to demonstrate the disinterested and benevolent genius of Christianity now, than it was eighteen centuries ago. Though the practice of medicine and surgery among western nations is founded upon *science*, yet, to an uncivilized and superstitious nation, it has much of the appearance of a superhuman power, which may lawfully subserve a good end, if the truth of the case be distinctly stated, and their credulity be not imposed upon. The gratuitous practice of medicine and surgery, founding hospitals and infirmaries, confers a direct and great good upon suffering humanity. These have ever been regarded as objects worthy the support of the benevolent. Often have the rich, in the near prospect of an exchange of worlds, when seeking for a mode of disposing of the wealth they cannot carry hence, bequeathed a liberal portion of their property to such objects, as one of the best means of evincing their gratitude for the enjoyment of it while they lived, as well as a happy method of embalming their names in the grateful recollections of myriads, through coming ages, who shall enjoy the fruits of their well-applied munificence. This species of charity is peculiarly needed in China. To sustain the hospitals already established in the empire, and to multiply them, as the way is prepared, and in them to train up Chinese youth, to extend the blessings beyond the limits to which the policy of the government restricts foreigners, and to give a correct and scientific practice of medicine and surgery to an empire which exceeds in territory and population any other nation, is of itself a grand enterprise. The undertaking, so great, is also *practicable*. Had the object no claims beyond those already alluded to, it would be deemed sufficient in respect to any Christianised country ; but in relation to China, they are the subordinate claims, compared with still higher ones, to which they conduct. In exhibiting the utility and importance of this object, let it not be sup-



posed that any other is displaced. It is not to be lost sight of for a moment, that *Divine truth* is the great agent through which our ultimate aim is to be gained. While by the needle of the oculist the light may be poured upon the eye long dark, by the surgeon's knife the useless limb amputated, and by the physician's skill even the malignant disease may be cured, nothing short of a higher power can, in a moral sense, remove the film from the eye, clarify the spiritual vision, and heal the malady of sin. At present, however, it is but to a limited degree that the higher means can be employed; but to exhibit the spirit and the fruits of the Gospel, Providence has remarkably opened the way; and it is fondly hoped, that at no distant day, the Chinese will regard these benevolent offices as such, and permit us to publish and enforce the *precepts* of Christianity. After several years' experience and residence in China, the firm belief is expressed, that in the present state of the Chinese, who are prejudiced against foreigners, as avaricious and barbarous, and possessed of no redeeming qualities, there is no method so directly adapted to remove false impressions, and to convince them of the true character of Christian men and the Christian religion, as by the plan adopted by the Medical Missionary Society in China, organised in February 1838. The following extracts from the Constitution of that Society, and the subjoined documents, will best explain its character and the object of the present statement.

*Extracts from Medical Missionary Society's Constitution.*

"1. That in order to give a wider extension, and a permanency, to the efforts that have already been made, to spread the benefits of rational medicine and surgery among the Chinese, a Society be organized at Canton, under the name of the Medical Missionary Society in China. That the object of this Society be, to encourage gentlemen of the medical profession to come and practise gratuitously among the Chinese, by affording the usual aid of hospitals, medicine, and attendants; but that the support or remuneration of such medical gentlemen be not at present within its contemplation.

"5. That this Association shall have a library, to be called 'the Library of the Medical Missionary Society in China,' and to be under the control of the Committee of Management, by which donations of books, &c., may be accepted.

"6. That this Society form a museum of natural and morbid anatomy, paintings of extraordinary diseases, &c., to be called 'the Anatomical Museum of the Medical Missionary Society in China,' and to be under the control of the Committee of Management.

"7. That all real estate, or other property, belonging to the Society, be held on behalf of the same by a board of trustees, to consist of the president, the treasurer, and the auditor of accounts.

"8. That candidates for the patronage of the Society must furnish satisfactory certificates of their medical education, approved by the Society sending them out, with testimonials from some religious body, as to their piety, prudence, and correct moral and religious character.

"9. That this Society will not assume the right to control any individual acting under its patronage, or to interfere with or modify the instructions he may have received from the Society sending him out. That it will, however, expect a strict observance of any general regulations for the management of its institutions, and a diligent study of some one dialect of the Chinese tongue, on the part of those who receive its patronage; and that it will reserve to itself the right of withdrawing its patronage, at the discretion of the Committee of Management, from any individual who may, from non-compliance with its regulations, or from other causes, incur its displeasure."

Regarding the qualifications of men to be employed, the Society used the following language:—

"For the agents by whom we are to carry our object into execution, we must look to the Missionary Boards and Committees in Great Britain and the United

States. They have it in their power to help us, and are best qualified to select men that are fitted to execute our designs. We do not engage to support such individuals, and therefore shall leave them free to cherish all the better feelings of an honourable independence. We offer them hospitals, with every other necessary and suitable accommodation and means of effecting good. In these hospitals we require for the patients the same uniform and well-considered attention which are enjoyed in similar institutions at home. Men of eminent qualifications and tried character are indispensable for the successful prosecution of the work. For after the Society has done all it can do, by way of preparation, its direct influence on the Chinese is to be exerted through the agents it employs: on them, therefore, the destinies of the Society are suspended. If they fail, it fails; their success is its success. They are to give effect to the wishes of the Society and its friends. Too much care cannot be bestowed on their selection. Both in character and practice they should be every way good men. The constitution of the Society has been framed so as to guard, as far as it is in its power to guard, this point."

The efforts to benefit the Chinese in this way, in modern times, are briefly these. Alexander Pierson, Esq., surgeon to the Honourable East India Company, introduced successfully the art of vaccination, in 1805; this has since extended widely through the empire. Dr. Livingston and Rev. Dr. Morrison opened an infirmary for the poor Chinese at Macao, in 1820, which was sustained for some time, and alleviated much suffering. In 1827, T. R. Colledge, Esq., surgeon to the Honourable East India Company, opened his Eye Infirmary at Macao, and, during the three years of its continuance, afforded relief to no less than 4000 patients, among whom were persons in different ranks, and from various parts of the empire, from whom he received many and unequivocal tokens of gratitude. The Ophthalmic Hospital at Canton was opened by Rev. P. Parker, M.D., October, 1835, and the General Hospital at Macao, in July, 1838. Up to the 17th June, 1840, these institutions had received upwards of 8000 patients, embracing every variety of disease. It was after long effort that a place was found for a hospital; and when at length a suitable building was rented, and previous notice had been given, the first day no patients ventured to come; the second, a solitary female affected with glaucoma, came; the third day, half a dozen; and soon they came in crowds. It is difficult to convey to a person who has not witnessed the scenes of the hospital, a just idea of them. He needs to be present on a day for receiving new patients, and behold respectable women and children assembling at the door the preceding evening, and sitting all night in the streets, that they might be in time to obtain an early ticket, so as to be treated the same day. He need behold in the morning the long line of sedans extending far in each direction; see the mandarins, with their attendant footmen, horsemen, and standard-bearers; observe the dense mass in the room below,—parents lifting their children at arms' length above the crowd, lest they should be suffocated or injured; stand by during the examination and giving out of tickets of admission to the hall above, where they are registered and prescribed for; urgent cases being admitted at once, while others are directed to come in five or ten days, according to the ability to attend to them. Upon that floor witness one or two hundred selected from the hundreds below, (many being sent away, some, indeed, irremediable, but still more curable, and deserving attention;) officers of various rank, from the district magistrate to the criminal judge of the province, sitting at the table of the physician, with scores of humbler fellow-citizens, seeking the same gratuity at the foreigner's hand.

As the impracticability of prescribing and operating the same day has required a day weekly for surgical operations, (and frequently two days



have been requisite,) on one of these occasions, too, he should be present. Usually, the amputation of limbs, extirpation of cancerous breasts, or excision of tumours, come first in the day; then a company of cataract patients—from six even to sixteen have been operated upon in the same hour. In another room are twenty or thirty affected with entropia and pterygia. Of this division he might observe a dozen patients seated along a bench, the surgeon passing from one to another, performing the operations, a native assistant following with needle and sutures, and a second with adhesive plaster and bandage, availing himself of system and classification for the sake of despatch.

He need see the man or child, lately groping in darkness, now rejoicing to behold the light; and the fond mother, her countenance overcast with gloom at the apprehension that her darling child must soon die, presently wanting terms to express her joy as she sees that child prattling around her, insensible to the danger from which it has been rescued. And, again, he should witness the gratitude of those whose protracted afflictions they had supposed would terminate only with life, in a few days restored to health; and, as he beholds considerable numbers who never again can see the light, think of a still larger company, who, but for the timely relief afforded, would have become alike unfortunate.

Patients from all parts of the empire have availed themselves of the benefits of the Hospital; persons of all ranks—military, naval, and civil officers, the Nanhaehëen, or district magistrate, the customhouse officer, salt inspectors, provincial judges, provincial treasurers, a Tartar general, governors of provinces, commissioner Lin, and a number of the imperial family.

A selection from the many hundreds of cures to be found in the Reports of the Hospital, will better explain the influence and benefits of the institution than any general remarks. They are in an abridged form. Two cases of interest are first introduced, that occurred in my practice at Singapore, where, from January to August, 1835, no less than 1000 were received at the dispensary. A Chinese had been wounded by pirates. The ball entered just above the left ilium, and passed into the cavity of the abdomen, as was proved by introducing the finger. It occurred that a ball that made such an orifice must have some weight to it, and after some preliminary treatment, the patient, on the third day, was placed upon his hands and feet, and the weight of the ball was sufficient to indicate its situation. It was between the muscles, about two inches from the umbilicus, on the opposite side. An incision was made, and the ball extracted, and also a splinter of wood, and a portion of his garment, that were carried in with it. In six weeks the man was able to resume his labour. He received, and read, and commended, too, the Christian books in Chinese put into his hand. On being asked what he found that interested him, he replied, "*A Saviour of men.*"

A Hindoo was speared by pirates, near Singapore, and his spleen drawn out by the weapon. He had been exposed in a boat to the sun for twenty-four hours before he reached the hospital. The wounded viscus was inflamed, bloody, and filthy. In preference to returning it in such a state, it was excinded—the man recovered.

Early after opening the hospital at Canton, was called to a young woman, who, at the approach of a thunder-shower, was descending with the clothes that had been out to dry on the top of the house. She was to descend into the house by a ladder; her feet slipped at the top

round; she fell forward, and came down upon the perpendicular standard of her silk blades. It was a bamboo of an inch diameter, sawed off square. This entered the right axilla, passed upwards, fractured the clavicle, came out and re-entered the side of the neck, exposing the external jugular, perforated the trachea and œsophagus, and was arrested only by the hard palate on the opposite side. If she took any fluid, it passed out at the side of the neck; and at every respiration the air passed also. In about six weeks the clavicle had united, the wounds healed up, and several spicula of bone exfoliated from the roof of the mouth; the patient recovered, and has become an athletic woman.

A young man fell from the roof of his house, fractured the humerus of his left arm. It partially united under the treatment of native physicians. Six months previously to coming to the hospital, in the crowd at a Chinese play, it was severed again, and never united. It was now thirty-one inches in circumference above the elbow, and apparently, the tumefaction was aneurismal, and the integument was very much attenuated. It was amputated at the shoulder joint with complete success. The severed limb weighed twenty-three pounds. The young man is now alive, in the enjoyment of good health, whereas, but for this operation, he could not have lived many weeks.

In 1837, a young woman from Făshan had a tumour attached to the chin and throat more than two feet in circumference. It was in the warm month of June when she first came to the hospital, the thermometer averaging 96° in the shade. About to embark for Loo-chew and Japan, I advised her to defer the operation till the cold weather of autumn. But no delay could be acceded to on the part of the patient and her venerable grandfather. The tumour was removed. The operation was performed in about two minutes. The tumour weighed sixteen pounds. In ten days the wound was healed. In December, after my return from Japan, the patient returned to the hospital to express her gratitude, and brought with her her first-born son, a fine infant of six weeks old.

From a man about forty years of age, a tumour weighing seven pounds, attached to the neck and throat, extending from the left ear to several inches on the right side of the neck, was also successfully excised.

In 1838, a young man, aged twenty-three, came to the hospital with a singular disease of the hairy scalp, of ten years' growth. A mass half the size of his head hung loose over the right ear, and down the back of the neck. It was removed. The integuments were very much thickened, but separated from the unformed mass beneath, which was dissected out, exposing the pericranium below. The portion of scalp taken away was nearly large enough to cover one-third of his head. He perfectly recovered in eight weeks.

Choo Yihleang, a young man blooming with health, had a tumour of a peculiar character on the right side of his neck, as large as his head. It was situated beneath the superficial fascia and its superincumbent muscles. The day preceding the operation, the patient requested not to be tied, assuring me he would not move a limb or utter a word. When the moment arrived, instead of shrinking from the crisis, he put one hand on the table, and skipped upon it with great agility, as if joyful in the prospect of being freed from so troublesome a companion. In twenty days he was quite well.

A few weeks after this man, another, named Woo Kinshing aged forty, presented himself with a tumour of great magnitude, resembling



in shape a tenor viol. Superiorly, it extended over the shoulder to the spine of the scapula, and from the acromion process to the trachea; and from the axilla to the sternum, and as low as the breast, carrying that gland down before it. *The circumference at the base was three feet three inches*, its perpendicular length *two feet*, and its transverse diameter *one foot eight inches*. It was very vascular, especially the upper portion of it, which was in an inflamed and ulcerated state; and the principal vein that returned the blood of the tumour, near the clavicle, when distended with blood, from pressure with the finger upon it, was apparently half an inch diameter. There was a deep longitudinal fissure, and ulcers at several points, discharging blood, lymph, and pus. The weight of it had become exceedingly burdensome, and several times a-day the patient experienced severe paroxysms of pain, causing him to groan aloud, at which times he laid his tumour upon the floor, and reclined himself upon it; in this posture he spent most of his time, day and night. His countenance and furrowed brow expressed the calamity he suffered. The tumour, with great difficulty, but with complete success, was removed; it weighed fifteen pounds avoirdupois, and in eight weeks the patient was discharged in good health.

In one instance, a man presented himself at the hospital with a tumour attached to his back, and extending nearly to the ground. It was over four feet circumference, and would weigh, probably, from seventy-five to a hundred pounds. When he sat down it formed a large circular cushion, that elevated him seven or eight inches. It was proposed to remove it; but his idol, which he consulted on the occasion, decided against an operation. In 1838 he died of a fever.

Dropsies are common, and in one instance twelve gallons of fluid were abstracted at the same time from a young woman, and permanent relief followed.

Besides the common diseases to which men in different countries are subject, some of a peculiar character have presented. In 1839, Chow-Keatseuen, a florist, aged thirty-one, had a horn upon the top of his head. Previously to his coming to the hospital, half an inch of the top had been cut off; the remaining portion, resembling a truncated cone, was a full inch high, and two inches in circumference. It was attached wholly to the integument of the scalp. Two elliptical incisions were made, so as to take out the whole of the integument in which it originated. This was preternaturally soft, and the veins and arteries were unusually numerous. The wound was brought together by sutures and adhesive plaster, and in one week it was quite well.

Every form of ophthalmic disease has presented; and great numbers are now to be found, in different provinces, who once were blind, but are now enjoying the light of day. A mere outline of the operations of the hospital is all that has been aimed at in this statement. A compilation of all the Reports and proceedings of the Society, with plates, representing the more important surgical cases, is in contemplation for the public.

The most unequivocal expressions of gratitude have been manifested, both in words and in actions. The father, whose only child, a beautiful daughter, had a tumour of seven pounds weight removed from her back, after she was discharged well, returned with a scroll with a poetical inscription to the physician to this effect:—"A grievous disease had entwined itself around my little daughter; I had gone in various directions seeking for physicians of distinction, and had expended much money upon them in vain. When I heard of the foreign physi-

cian in the provincial city, I took my daughter by the hand, and repaired to his residence with the speed of a courser. He received and treated my daughter, removing the flaw from the gem, and now she is a perfect pearl again." Though it is more than five years since the operation, the father retains the most lively gratitude, and returns from year to year with expressions of it. Similar gratitude has been manifested by the young lady from Nanking, who was cured of an excrescence growing upon the centre of the cornea of her left eye. In one instance, a brother and sister, the one nineteen, and the other twenty-one, had cataracts, so that they had lived together for years without seeing each others' face. They were accompanied by their fond parents. When the operation was successfully performed for both, they were then, in the presence of their parents, brought to see each other. The emotions of all were such as the occasion was calculated to produce. The feelings of Masze Yay, a Chinese officer still living, and who sends yearly remembrances to the physician, is expressed in a poem which may be found quoted in the Penny Magazine for July, 1837. The Tartar general, who had cataracts, on leaving the hospital, remarked, that he had been an office-bearer forty-one years, had visited all the eighteen provinces of the empire, "but, (alluding to the operations of the hospital,) never have I seen or heard of one who does such things before," and burst forth in the exclamation, "*Taetih, Tëen sheâ te e ko jin!*"—Superlative virtue! the first man under heaven! &c. &c.

On the day the hospital was closed at Canton, June 17th, 1840, about 200 Chinese patients and their friends were present; and when the patients who came that day for the first time understood that the hospital was to be closed for a time, they fell upon their faces, and, knocking head upon the ground, with tears entreated that they too might be healed by the physician; and after his instruments were put up to come away, he was prevailed upon to take them out again, to remove all the fingers and the thumb, which were mortified, of a virtuous young lady of seventeen years.

Most gratifying intelligence has been received from Wm. Lockhart, Esq. and B. Hobson, Esq. of this country, who are now engaged in this cause in China. At Chushan, Mr. Lockhart has already treated several hundreds of Chinese, and has a young man of much promise assisting him. That the existing difficulties between England and China will, sooner or later, be re-adjusted so as to afford a more extended intercourse with that empire, none acquainted with the power of England on the one hand, and the very general desire of the Chinese for commerce on the other, can doubt; when, to a greater extent than we are prepared to occupy, a sphere of benevolent operations will be opened.

More than three years ago, *Sir Henry Hallford*, Bart., President of the Royal College of Physicians, delivered an interesting address before that royal institution, exhibiting some of the results of the successful practice of physic; the Duke of Cambridge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Sir Robert Peel, and many other distinguished members of the bar, the bench, and the senate, being present. The sentiments of the noble baronet are so important and pertinent to the subject that copious extracts are introduced from the address.\*

"I do not intend," said he, "to advert to the pecuniary fruits of our toil; nor do I mean to speak of the honours awarded to physicians. No—I contemplate the

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\* N.B. The Address may be obtained at Murray's, Albemarle-Street, and is worthy the perusal of all.



moral influence which the cure of the ills of the body has upon the minds of the patient. I allude to that deference to the physician's judgment on other subjects, which follows his successful exercise of it over pain and sickness—to that gratitude and attachment, which is the sweetest reward of our anxious and laborious life. It is your peculiar privilege, my brethren, in the daily exercise of your calling, to go about doing good; and it ought to be a gratification and encouragement to you to recollect, that the great Author of our salvation first conciliated the attention and good-will of the multitudes which followed him, by healing their sick. Nor is it possible to find a happier moment to create and establish a confidence and a regard in the heart of the sick person, and of those who are attached to him, than this, in which his own hopes and fears, and those of his friends, hang upon the physician's counsel and his decision."

But while daily experience confirmed the truth of his position, he preferred turning to history for its verification. After alluding to Homer and Hippocrates in ancient times, and Jenner in modern, he proceeds,—

"But the anecdote most flattering to the medical profession, which I would recal to your remembrance, is the occasion of the first establishment of the East India Company's power on the coast of Coromandel, which was procured by the favour of the Great Mogul to one of our profession, Gabriel Boughton, in gratitude for his efficient help in a case of great distress to the monarch; on which the Great Mogul's minister asked him what his master could do for him, to manifest his gratitude for so important a service? Gabriel answered, with a disinterestedness, a generosity, a patriotism beyond praise, 'Let my nation trade with yours.'—'Be it so.' Hence did the civilization of that vast continent begin—from hence the blessed light of the Gospel may have been first promulgated amongst a hundred millions of native idolaters, since made partakers of our enlightened comforts."

"This happy result of the successful interposition of one of our medical brethren," remarked Sir Henry, "suggests a question to my mind,—of the expediency of educating missionaries, who are to be sent to the rude, uninformed population of distant countries to propagate the Gospel, in the medical art, as the earliest object of their studies, in order that they make themselves more acceptable than if they presented themselves professedly to teach a new religion. I propound this question with great diffidence, particularly in the presence of that part of my audience with whom it may rest to direct the preliminary education of this useful body of men; but I know that the candour of these venerable characters is equal to their high dignity, and that they will receive my suggestions in good part, and feel assured that I mean that these missionaries should carry the Gospel in their heads and in their hearts, and govern their conduct by its precepts."

"I am sanguine enough to believe that even the Chinese, that proud and exclusive people, would receive into their country those who enter with these views, without that suspicion and distrust which they never fail to manifest when they surmise that trade is the object of the stranger's visit, or some covert intention to interfere with their institutions; and that this might be made the occasion of giving the comfort of the Gospel to three hundred and sixty millions more of the inhabitants of our globe, in process of time." Then, calling attention to what had been done recently at the Ophthalmic Hospital in Canton, he adds,—

"By endeavouring to benefit both the body and the soul, some favourable impression, it is to be expected, will be made on the minds of this people. We cannot expect the Chinese to grasp with eagerness at our improvements, yet the cure of diseases, set down at once as fatal, in their experience, must be likely to facilitate the introduction of our knowledge, and add most humanely to their civilization, and not to their temporal happiness only, but to their future felicity, by the introduction of the holy Scriptures amongst them, by this avenue."

On leaving China in July last, the following letter was addressed to Dr. Parker:—

"TO THE REV. PETER PARKER, M.D.

*"Macao, 3rd July, 1840.*

"My dear Doctor Parker,—The Committee of the Medical Missionary Society have requested me to convey to you their sentiments upon your contemplated visit

to your native country, and it is with feelings of high satisfaction that I accede to their request. This will be best shown in the words of the resolutions embodied in the minutes of the last meeting of the committee, held on the 1st of this month.

“‘ Dr. Parker having stated his intention of proceeding to America for a short time, the committee have much satisfaction in recording their full approval.

“‘ While the committee cannot but regret that recent occurrences should cause any interruption to services so valuable as those which Dr. Parker has rendered in Canton, they fully concur in the opinion, that as the arduous duties in which he has been engaged, during a residence of six years in this climate, make it apparent that, in a few years at least, a temporary return to his native country would be necessary, his labours could at no time be so well spared as while the unsettled state of affairs in China render it necessary to close the hospital in Canton, and while there is so much uncertainty of a speedy solution of the difficulties that now interfere with a free intercourse with the Chinese.

“‘ From Dr. Parker’s well known zeal in propagating an enlightened faith, and in the pursuit of the medical profession as a means of promoting that object among the Chinese, the committee entertain hopes that the interests of the society will be benefited by his visit to America, and the opportunities it will afford of a personal exposition of the objects of the society, by one who has enjoyed such extensive intercourse with this people; and the committee would suggest the propriety of taking occasion to lay before the public in America, and in England, should it be convenient for Dr. Parker to visit that country before his return, a statement of the objects and prospects of the society, the work that has been already done, and the preparation now making by the medical officers of the society to take advantage of a more extended sphere of usefulness.

“‘ The committee also take this opportunity of expressing their high sense of the value of Dr. Parker’s services, of his unremitting attention to his professional duties, of his patient endurance in overcoming the obstacles that exist in the Chinese mind to an intercourse with foreigners, and of his ardent zeal in doing good; and request Dr. Anderson to convey to him the sentiments contained in the above resolutions, and the hope they entertain of his return ere long to resume his labours, when there is every hope that the exclusive policy of this empire may be removed, and an unlimited field of useful labour opened.’

“ In acting as the organ of the committee on this occasion, I have the greatest pleasure in bearing witness to the general interest that is taken in the Medical Missionary Society, to the zeal and abilities you have manifested in your professional labours among the Chinese, and to the success that has attended them; to the high feeling of respect that is entertained by the whole community in China for yourself as a man and as a Christian, and as one devoting your life to an object productive of so much present good, and that holds out so much hope of promoting the eternal welfare of a large portion of our fellow men.

“ With most sincere wishes that the interests of the society may be advanced, and your own constitution renovated by your visit to your native land,

“ Believe me, my dear Doctor Parker, yours most sincerely,

“ *To the Rev. P. Parker, M.D.*

ALEXANDER ANDERSON.”

In accordance with the wishes thus expressed by the Society, Dr. Parker has presented the subject in America, where it has met with a most cordial reception, particularly from the medical profession, ever ready to promote the best interests of their fellow-men. In New York, he had the pleasure of meeting a number of the most distinguished gentlemen in the profession, at their own request. Not merely willing to aid by their money, but believing that an expression of the estimation in which their labours were held by the medical faculty, well known in the city, would be calculated to secure the confidence and aid of the *benevolent*, who are ever ready to patronise a *worthy* object, a committee was appointed to draw up such a testimonial, which is also subjoined.

“ *New York, April 6th, 1841.*

“ We, the undersigned members of the medical profession, having made ourselves acquainted with the plans of the Medical Missionary Society of China, do hereby cordially recommend the objects of that Society to the Christian community in this country. The leading object of the Society is the establishment of hospitals and



dispensaries in the accessible parts of the Chinese empire. By founding such institutions, the Society hopes to confer immense benefits upon the Chinese people. It is well known, that the system of medicine which is pursued in China by the native physicians, consists of an absurd farrago of empirical remedies, which are administered without discrimination; and that these practitioners are acquainted with no remedies for many of the most simple and easily curable forms of disease. It is therefore manifest that the establishment of hospitals, and of other kindred institutions, under the direction of well educated and properly qualified physicians, must be a source of great benefit to the people. And it appears from the published reports of the Medical Missionary Society, that the hospitals which have already been established have been the means of relieving a large amount of suffering, of removing many distressing infirmities, and of saving a number of valuable lives. Another important advantage to be derived from these institutions is the opportunity of instructing native young men in the principles of the healing art, and thus of rearing up a body of practitioners, to extend the benefits of medical science and professional skill among the millions of their countrymen. It is hoped that by these means the confidence of the Chinese people may be gained, and that the prejudices which they entertain towards foreigners may be overcome: indeed much has already been accomplished in this manner. The ultimate and the most important object at which the Society aims in the prosecution of its plans, is the advancement of the Christian religion among the inhabitants of this vast and populous empire; and there is probably no other method by which the confidence of the people can be so readily secured, and so powerful an influence can be exerted in favour of Christianity, and so strong a practical demonstration can be given of its benevolent attributes. The advantages resulting from these institutions are fully appreciated by the resident missionaries from England and America, who are engaged in more direct efforts to lead the Chinese people to the knowledge and adoption of the Christian faith. So far as we are acquainted with the individuals who are engaged in this enterprise, and with the measures which they are pursuing in order to its advancement, we regard them as entitled to the highest confidence. An effort is about to be made to obtain the co-operation of benevolent persons in this country and in England, in promoting the objects and extending the benefits of the Medical Missionary Society. Believing, as we do, that the highest interests of the people of China are involved in the success of this undertaking, we heartily unite in urging its claim upon the confidence and support of the community.

“J. KEARNY RODGERS, M.D.

JA. BLISS, M.D.

NICOLL H. DERING, M.D.

JOSEPH M. SMITH, M.D.

J. SMYTH ROGERS, M.D.

JAMES L. PHELPS.

JAMES McNEILSON, M.D.

E. MEAD, M.D.

GILBERT SMITH, M.D.

ALBERT SMITH, M.D.

ALFRED C. POST, M.D.

BENJ. OGDEN, M.D.”

In the city of Washington, (D.C.,) in Philadelphia and Boston, similar interest was manifested, and resolutions passed. The minutes of the Medical Association of Boston, at a full meeting held on the 14th April, and signed by the most distinguished ornaments of the profession in that city, and several of them professors in Harvard University, is also given:—

#### “BOSTON MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

“At a meeting of the Boston Medical Association, in the Massachusetts Medical College, on the 14th of April, 1841, the attention of the meeting was called by Dr. Jackson to the subject of the hospitals established in Canton and Macao in China, to the Medical Missionary Society formed in that country, and to the efforts which were making there to extend a knowledge of medical and surgical science among the natives. He stated that, in 1834, the Rev. Peter Parker, M.D., was sent by the American Board for Foreign Missions, as a missionary to China; that this gentleman had previously studied medicine as well as theology, had received, in regular course, a medical diploma from Yale College, and was, by his talents and character, admirably adapted for the work he engaged in; that on his arrival in China he was induced to evince the excellence of his religion by acts of benevolence and professional skill, by healing the sick, by giving sight to the blind, and by enabling the lame to walk; that in 1835, he established a hospital in Canton, and subsequently one at Macao; that his own services had been rendered in all cases, whether to the rich or to the poor, without fee or reward; and that he had found



means to give support to many poor patients while undergoing treatment; that hitherto the expenses of his hospitals, which were exceedingly moderate, [had been defrayed by contributions derived principally from the American and English residents in China, but that in the present state of mercantile affairs in that country, these resources had failed; that it was desirable, not only to maintain these hospitals, but to establish others wherever the Chinese would permit; and for this purpose assistance must be sought in this country and in Great Britain, and, if possible, that this benevolent project should be carried on and maintained by permanent funds. It was further stated, that Dr. Parker had made many valuable friends among the English at Canton, and by their invitation he was about to make a short visit to Great Britain; that he looked to that country, as well as to this, for aid to his benevolent efforts; and that he surely might well solicit this aid, as he had nothing to ask for himself, but had devoted his life to the objects which had been described, receiving only a bare support from the Board which had employed him; that it became medical men to sympathise with one who had done so much honour to their profession; that a recommendation of Dr. Parker's objects to public favour by this Association might have some influence, although it would seem manifest that, without any recommendation, men of intelligence and wealth would see that the furtherance of those objects would be not less important to the interests of the trading community, than to those of an enlarged philanthropy. He then stated that Dr. Parker had come to the meeting on his invitation, and moved that Dr. Parker be requested to give a statement of his experience on the subject which had been mentioned, and an explanation of his wishes in regard to it.

"Dr. Parker then proceeded to give to the meeting, at some length, an account of the state of medical science among the Chinese, by which it appeared that little knowledge of the principles of medicine exists in that nation, and still less of surgery. Their practice is grossly inefficient, and marked by ignorant and superstitious formalities. Since the establishment of the missionary hospitals, many thousands have resorted to them for relief, and among these have been many individuals from a great distance, some of them persons of rank and wealth, and even members of the emperor's household. The applications were stated to be more numerous than could be received, and the confidence entertained in the medical powers of the foreign physicians, by the Chinese, was most extensive and implicit. Many interesting cases were detailed, of the relief afforded by Dr. Parker and his associates, particularly in his surgical and ophthalmic operations, in cases to which the resources of the native practitioners were totally incompetent.

"No one who heard the statements of Dr. Parker could refrain from being satisfied, that the introduction of an enlightened medical practice among the Chinese, offers one of the surest avenues to the confidence and friendly intercourse of that secluded people.

"It was then voted that the following resolves be adopted, as expressing the opinions of this Association:—

"1. That the measures which have been pursued in China by the Rev. Peter Parker, M.D., as a Christian missionary, merit the highest commendation, as exhibiting to the Chinese a compliance with the great law of love, which distinguishes the Christian religion.

"2. That the course pursued by Dr. Parker is to be commended for its prospective as well as immediate effects, inasmuch as, while he has afforded relief to the sick and suffering, the treatment of them has been made to furnish instruction to native Chinese, by whom a knowledge of medicine and surgery may be rendered more extensively useful among their numerous countrymen.

"3. The disinterestedness and personal sacrifices of a missionary, who banishes himself from his own country, as Dr. Parker has done, to labour in a foreign land, add very much to the interest which the objects of his pursuit are well calculated to inspire.

"4. That the benefits to be obtained by a continuation of the labours of Dr. Parker, with those of such coadjutors as may be joined to him, are so manifest and practical, and the prospects opening from them promise so much benefit to the mercantile intercourse of our countrymen, as well as to the Chinese nation, that his plans must undoubtedly obtain the support of our citizens, if they can be brought distinctly before them.

"5. That, accordingly, this Association invite the attention of men of property to the medical establishments in China, and earnestly recommend that they should furnish such assistance as shall give a permanent maintenance to these establishments.

"6. That a committee be appointed to consult with any persons who may take



an interest in the subject of the medical establishments in China, and to take such measures as may seem to them expedient, to obtain the aid required.

"It was voted that Drs. Jackson, Warren, Shattuck, Hooper, and Bowditch, be a committee to carry into effect the sixth resolution.

"It was voted that the proceedings of this meeting be published, signed by the names of the chairman and secretary, together with those of a committee appointed for the purpose.

"JAMES JACKSON.	JOHN JEFFRIES.
JOHN C. WARREN.	ENOCH HALE.
GEORGE C. SHATTUCK.	WOODBIDGE STRONG.
WALTER CHANNING.	JOHN B. S. JACKSON.
EDWARD REYNOLDS.	J. V. C. SMITH.
SOLOMON TOWNSEND.	JOHN WARE, <i>Committee.</i>
GEORGE HAYWARD.	

JACOB BIGELOW, *Chairman.*

JAMES B. GREGERSON, *Secretary.*"

*The object proposed* is to raise in England and America a permanent fund for the support of the "Medical Missionary Society in China," for the maintenance of the hospitals already established, and for the founding of others at every accessible and eligible part of China; it being also a prominent object to train up *Chinese youth* of talent, to extend the blessings through the empire; in all our efforts, never losing sight of the paramount object,—the introduction of the Gospel.

A peculiarity of the Medical Missionary Society in China is, that it addresses itself to the consideration of *all*. The man of science and the philanthropist, who look especially to immediate benefits, are here interested; and to the sympathies of those who, while they equally appreciate the desirableness of contributing in every feasible manner to the welfare of their species for time, contemplate with unspeakably more solicitude those interests which are eternal, it presents an irresistible, an overwhelming claim. When we reflect upon the present state of surgery and medicine in China, the suffering that is experienced, the lives annually and needlessly lost, and advert to the time when similar ignorance was the misfortune of the nations of Europe; and when we consider the rational basis upon which science is now established, and our facilities for imparting to others the incalculable benefits received from the application of chemistry and natural and inductive philosophy to the subject of health, in the investigation of the causes and phenomena of disease, and the means of controlling it.

The world is a whole—and as the human race approximates to the perfection which it is destined to reach, the principle of union and fellow-feeling will become more and more influential. A Bacon, a Newton, or a Franklin, is not to be monopolized. Such men belong not merely to the nation that gave them birth, but to the whole world. They were doubtless designed by Providence to be blessings, not merely to a single age or country, but to all successive ages, and to every land. Upon those who first enjoyed the boon, rests the obligation to extend universally their principles, which have revolutionized the philosophy and science of Europe, and which, whenever permitted free ingress, will produce similar results in China. Surely, no accumulation of arguments is required to prove a case so clear. If the principle is admitted, that our race is *one*, then the *remoteness* of the empire for which we plead cannot neutralize the obligation.

When we survey the vastness of the field, the good to be effected, and when, reflecting upon the immense resources of the western hemisphere, we compare these with the small portion of wealth required to secure the desired object, we are confident that benevolence, disinterested like its Author, and as expansive as the woes of man are extensive, will not withhold the means. A rare opportunity is here afforded to the philanthropist of doing good—of enjoying the felicity of imparting to others, without diminution to himself, some of his richest blessings. He is invited to unite in accomplishing a great, immediate, and positive good,—is encouraged by the hope of immediate success, to aid in uniting to the great family of nations, this long severed and secluded branch, and in introducing among the people, not only the healing art, but in its train the sciences, and all the blessings of Christianity.

When passing through this great metropolis, my eye falls upon those noble capitals, inscribed upon hospitals and infirmaries,—“FOUNDED

BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION," or at St. Paul's cathedral I behold the bust of Howard, with the key of the prison in one hand, and the important scroll, "A Proposal for the Improvement of Prisons," in the other, and the chains and manacles of the prisoner under his feet, I am reminded this is the land in which philanthropy has flourished. And when an object so vast and so good, and withall so *practicable*, as to give hospitals and infirmaries, retreats for the insane, and asylums for lepers, and an enlightened medical and surgical practice to the millions of China, and ultimately, all the blessings of Christianity,—the sanguine hope is cherished, that it will meet a full response.

In reference to the *direct* benefit resulting from the efforts of the Medical Missionary Society in China, his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex remarked,—“Yes, I can speak experimentally upon that subject, having had the cataract extracted from both my eyes;” and added, that several members of his family had had also the same affection. This is a case in point, and from its proximity in time and space, must be appreciated. Let any reflect upon the happiness derived from surgical skill in this instance, rendering visible the beauties of the park and the palace, and, above all, the greetings of friendly countenances, instead of spending the evening of life in total darkness! This happiness has been conferred on hundreds in the various provinces of the Chinese empire, where, upon the child of four years, and the aged patient of fourscore, the operation has been successfully performed for the same. Upon myriads more, through coming generations, similar blessings may be conferred. If the healing art is to be introduced into China, who can better do it than the nations of the west. When it is once established, it is not likely it will be lost again; and thus the blessings, each so valuable, will be multiplied and extended through coming time, whilst the more important ones at which we aim will pass onward during the endless future.





